



NATURE BASED AGRI-TOURISM



DEFINITION:

Nature Based Agri-Tourism is a segment of rural tourism sometimes referred to as ecotourism, for APUC purposes an eligible business is defined as **one which seeks to attract visitors to a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural or agribusiness operation to enjoy, be educated or be involved in activities.**

Nature Based Agri-Tourism enterprises are designed to bring people to rural ND to engage in a recreational, sport, educational or labor assisted sales (self harvesting) activity. Eligible facilities must provide restroom facilities, fresh water for sanitation, and other appropriate accommodations. These activities **MUST** be fee based and provide primary or secondary sources of economic activity. APUC realizes that these activities may be sporadic, seasonal, or fairly small in scope.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

Eligible projects under the Nature Based Agri-Tourism grant include but are not limited to the following;

- farm or ranch tours
- hands-on chores
- self harvesting of produce
- hunting operations
- fishing operations (located on applicants land)
- bird watching
- trail rides
- corn mazes

EXAMPLES OF NON-ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

Non-eligible projects under the Nature Based Agri-Tourism grant include but are not limited to the following;

- overnight stays in a bed and breakfast
- visiting city, state, or national parks
- community festivals
- non-profit organizations i.e. 4H clubs, Chamber of Commerce's, etc...

GUIDELINES:

1. The maximum grant award is \$10,000 and individuals (companies) are only eligible for one grant per project.
2. APUC will not fund salaries.
3. Applications will be considered on a quarterly basis with the deadline for application due on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.
4. Peer reviews from individuals in the Tourism Department may be obtained.
5. Generally grants are for one year.

6. Grants are limited to projects located in North Dakota.
7. The applicant (s) may be asked to make a presentation to the full commission.
8. Applicants must demonstrate a well thought out marketing plan and a working knowledge of the industry.
9. Projects are encouraged to work together and apply for grant dollars to promote an entire region, thus, multiple businesses are given high priority.
10. Grants will not fund ongoing operational expenses for existing operations.
11. APUC may limit total expenditures in this category to no more than \$200,000.00 per biennium.

Each grant application will be considered on an individual basis and on its own merits. **The Commission reserves the right to accept, reject, or partially fund any grant application.**

A signed original application needs to be submitted to the APUC office by the deadline date; however an electronic version may be submitted for initial review.

APUC Commissioners will consider the first 15 applications received by the deadline. 1st time applicants will be given preference.